

Stockton's Faculty Band Leads "Profapalooza" March 6 at House of Blues in Atlantic City

Local Rockers to Join with Professors Representing Colgate, Susquehanna Universities for Unique Show

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Atlantic City., NJ- Move over Woodstock, make room OzzFest: The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Faculty Band will be headlining the first "Profapalooza" concert at Atlantic City's House of Blues on Friday, March 6, 2009. Doors open at 7:00 PM and show time is at 7:45 PM.

Brainchild of Professor of Social Work, sax player and vocalist Paul Lyons, the event will bring Stockton's veteran 10-piece rock-jazz-soul stylists together with two other faculty bands: Dangerboy, representing Colgate University of Hamilton, NY; and Faculty Lounge from Susquehanna University of Selinsgrove, PA. Each of the groups will perform individual sets followed by a group jam finale.

In existence with varying members since the 1980's, Stockton's Faculty Band has entertained thousands of music lovers and raised thousands of dollars in donations to the Stockton Federation of Teachers (SFT) Scholarship Fund since its most recent revival seven years ago. The band has been a staple of the Stockton Performing Arts Center's "Stockton Goes to the Beach" summer concert series in Atlantic City and Ocean City, as well as Stockton's Annual Scholarship Benefit Gala. Recently they performed at Atlantic City's historic Dante Hall and last year released "Pop Quiz", their first CD. All proceeds raised by the band benefit SFT scholarships.

Despite the demands of a hectic performance and practice schedule and an excellent track record for providing opportunities to deserving students Lyons believed the band could do more. For more than a year he thought about a concert bringing Stockton's musicians together with musical groups from other schools in a celebration of scholarship and song. Finally, one day the name Profapalooza came to him and a concept was born. Band members talked to their colleagues at Colgate and Susquehanna, and found willing participants. Stockton Director of the Library, percussionist and mandolin player David Pinto, along with Lyons, approached House of Blues, which liked the idea and booked the show.

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Lyons registered the name as a trademark, and he envisions the concept as national in scope with Profapaloozas raising scholarship funds on a national or even international basis.

"We enjoy playing, and we appreciate the reception we've received from our audiences," Lyons says. "Music tends to bring people together, and this is a chance to provide educational opportunities through a fun event."

The CD is available online through CD Baby at http://cdbaby.com/cd/stocktonfaculty, at the CD Exchange on New Road in Northfield, or at any of Stockton's Faculty Band's performances.

The Stockton Faculty Band is a group of professors, two administrators and a faculty spouse. They are versatile musicians performing a wide range of genres from classic rock, rhythm and blues to funk and jazz. The current group members include Professor of Mathematics Frank Cerreto on vocals and guitar; Director of the Center for Academic Advising and Planning Peter Hagen on vocals and bass; Associate Professor of Marine Science Rich Hager on guitar and vocals; Associate Professor of Philosophy Rodger Jackson on lead guitar and vocals; Librarian and Assistant Professor in the Library David Lechner on sax and trumpet; Lyons; Professor of Art Mike McGarvey on saxophone and vocals; Warren Ogden, the spouse of Stockton Associate Professor of Art History Kate Nearpass Ogden on keyboards; Pinto; and Associate Professor of Philosophy Anne Pomeroy on vocals, flute and congas.

Tickets are available through <u>Ticketmaster</u>, the <u>House of Blues Web site</u> or through the House of Blues box office at 609-236-BLUE. Tickets are \$35 for balcony seats and \$25 for floor (standing). Students with a valid ID from Colgate University, Susquehanna University, and Stockton College are eligible for a 50 percent discount. To receive this discount, students must present their ID.